**The Randy Man**

1. Randy Leslie: The Man, the Myth, the Legend
2. Randy is 24 years old, and currently attends Burger School, an all autistic school in Garden City, Michigan.
3. He takes classes at Burger that are similar to the one’s we discussed in class. These classes focus more on adaptive, social, and conceptual skills than academic skills, and include Shop and Daily Living.
4. Randy participates in Special Olympics, where he does track, cycling, and snow shoeing.
5. I love helping out with Special Olympics. Randy is a very calm and collected guy, but when he is about to take part in a race, DO NOT get in his way. He gets really energized and fired up, and always has his “game face” on.
6. It is so awesome for my family and me to see him so pumped up, because that is something that I know means a lot to him. The look on his face when he wins a medal is something that we wouldn’t trade for the world.
7. Randy’s childhood
8. Randy was diagnosed with Autism when he was 2 or 3 years old
9. When he was that age, my parents said that he was no different than any other child
10. However, when he was around six my parents said they noticed Randy was displaying many autistic characteristics
11. Randy was very shy, and often enjoyed playing by himself alone
12. His language was very delayed; my parents noticed that he was only able to say a few basic words when other children were saying full sentences
13. My parents said it was difficult for them to carry on conversations with him, and he would often answer saying one to two words
14. He attended Ferrend Elementary School for both preschool and kindergarten, and received help from special education teachers for speech and language development

1. Randy’s characteristics
2. Social interaction
3. Randy is a very social guy. With family, he is outgoing, loud, funny, and is a blast to be around. Even with my brother’s and my friends, Randy is comfortable and really fun to be around.
4. It is when Randy doesn’t know you well that he has trouble socially. He gets nervous and anxious, primarily because he is not yet accustomed to being around you and isn’t familiar with you.
5. He often has short answers and has a tendency to raise his voice.
6. Randy also enjoys being alone. He often spends a lot of his down time in his bedroom, watching movies, playing with his toys, or playing his Sega Genesis (which is mine but he took it, I’m still a little bitter about it ☺). He really likes to be by himself when we have company over or there is a lot of commotion, simply because it is out of the ordinary.
7. However, when my brother Dave and I are home from school, he loves being around us and we always horse around with him.
8. Echolalia (Repeating things that he hears or what other people say)
9. Randy does this often- he often talks to himself, saying lines from movies that he has watched since he was little.
10. If there is a joke said and Randy is sitting at the table, once he hears everyone laugh he will say whatever he hears and then begin to laugh as well. That’s always really cool because he is engaged in our conversation and we know that he is listening.
11. The funniest thing that he does is imitate my grandma’s laugh. As soon as you hear my grandmas loud, high pitched laugh you know a laugh from Randy will soon follow.
12. Repetitive Actions
13. Randy has watched the same movies since he was little.
14. He knows these movies so well that when he types on the computer (which is one of his favorite things to do), he is able to type of ending credits of them with ease.
15. Randy often visits the library or Blockbuster with his classmates, and rents the same movies that he watches at home. He does this because those are the movies in which he is comfortable with, and they are routine.
16. He often asks for the same thing for Christmas and his birthday, simply because that is what he is used to playing with and what he enjoys.
17. Resistance to Change
18. Randy writes down a schedule for each day, either on the chalkboard while at school or in his notebook at home which he carries around almost everywhere.
19. In his schedule, he writes down the tasks for the day, and is very specific in his schedules.
20. When things in his schedule are rearranged, he often asks several times until he processes the new order. He often is uncomfortable and does not like changes in schedule.
21. Randy is a very dependent on his routine. He goes to school year round, so it is often difficult for him to adjust to things like summer vacations.
22. Randy is accustomed to going to school Monday through Friday, riding the bus to school at 7:30 A.M. and going home at 3 P.M.
23. He doesn’t do well with things like half days or snow days, because this is not routine or normal for him. (However, after the immediate shock, he does enjoy a break from school, just like any other kid ☺)
24. Some Interesting Habits
25. Scrabble letters
26. One of Randy’s favorite toys is his scrabble letters.
27. Instead of playing scrabble, Randy simply spells words
28. He will spell anything from family members names to every word of The 12 Days of Christmas (or Halloween, or Thanksgiving, or Mother’s Day, or Brian’s hockey game-any event that is closest)
29. He is so good with these letters that he knows exactly what letters are on each individual piece
30. It takes him about 15 minutes (tops) to spell out the entire “12 Days of Christmas”
31. Computer work
32. Randy has watched his same movies since he was little – Home Alone 1, Home Alone 2, Beethoven 1 and 2, and many others.
33. He has watched these movies so much that he is able to type the ending credits to each of them.
34. What’s even more interesting, he doesn’t space between his words, meaning that he has watched these movies so many times that he has memorized each letter in correct order in the credits.
35. Peanut’s!
36. Randy loves the Charlie Brown series.
37. He has books, movies, and toys of all the Peanut characters.
38. Every year, one of us always gets him a new set of Peanut characters for his birthday, which is always a huge hit
39. High Fives/ Woah!
40. Randy loves giving everyone high fives- all the time
41. He honestly gives me about 10 high fives an hour.
42. On top of the high fives, he says Woah! when he gets excited to see you or is goofing around.
43. He gets you to say Woah! after he does, and you’re hooked.
44. He keeps asking you to say funny things and he dies laughing- it’s always fun when he really gets into it.